5. Promote the use of Knowledge capabilities in making government an effective, transparent and accountable service provider to the citizen and promote widespread sharing of knowledge to maximize public benefit.

(c) 'Yes'.

(d) The activities of the Knowledge Commission are focused on five broad areas, namely, Access to Knowledge, Knowledge Concepts, Knowledge Creation, Knowledge Application and Knowledge Services.

Fees to be collected from university students

†111. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have instructed all the universities through University Grants Commission to meet 20 per cent of their expenditure from the fees to be collected from the students;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to these instructions universities will now be compelled to increase the fees of the students; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the likely amount of resultant annual savings to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Questions do not arise.

Dismal condition of school education

†112. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn towards the Annual Status of Education Report;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that as per this report the condition of school education is very pitiable;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps to improve the standard of school education; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) The findings of the Annual Survey of Education Report (ASER) are not much at variance with the Government's own data-base and information. The available data for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) indicates that the number of out of school children has reduced from 320 lakhs in 2001-02 to 134 lakhs in 2005-06, in the 6-14 years age group. This has been confirmed by a national survey commissioned by the Govt, of India through an independent agency, Social & Rural Research Institute-Indian Market Research Bureau (SRI-IMRB) during July-October 2005.

The drop out rate at the primary stage has reduced from 39.03% in 2001-02 to 31.36% in 2003-04. The reduction in the drop out rate for girls is significantly better, where it has come down by 11 percentage points in the same period.

Under SSA, the investment in school infrastructure has been steadily increasing over the years. 1.29 lakh new schools have been opened, 1.06 lakh schools buildings and 2.98 lakh additional class rooms have been constructed or are near completion.

The National Council for Educational Research & Training (NCERT) undertakes countrywide sample surveys on student achievement levels for particular classes regularly. The recently completed achievement survey for Class-V has indicated mean achievement levels of 46.7% in Mathematics and 58.3% in Language.

Under SSA, several activities are undertaken to improve the quality of elementary education with a view to increase the learning achievement levels of students in government schools. This includes

recruitment of 4.92 lakh additional teachers to improve the pupil teacher ratio, in service training of about 30 lakh teachers for a period of 20 days each year, free distribution of text books for primary and upper primary classes to about 5.02 crore SC, ST and girl students, regular academic support to primary and upper primary schools through 7422 Block Resource Centres and 70735 Cluster Resource Centres, regular evaluation of students and monitoring of school performance.

Pathetic condition of primary schools

†113. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been disclosed in the All India School level Education Survey Report (7th) of NCERT that many primary schools are still being run in kutcha building and under open sky;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the number thereof in Madhya Pradesh, district-wise; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The 7th All India School Education Survey reference date 30th September, 2002, (provisional Statistics) reveals that there are 27898 schools run in kutcha buildings, 1001 schools in tents and 15776 schools in open space out of 651381 primary schools in the country. State-wise details are given in the Statement (See below). District-wise information of Madhya Pradesh is not available.

(d) The Government of India launched Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in partnership with the States to achieve universalisation of elementary education. Provision for school infrastructure is a major component of the SSA. Under SSA, 120629 school buildings, 329690 additional classrooms, 222051 toilets, 160225 drinking water facilities have been approved.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.